

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE**NGO Forum on Human Rights*****BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS -
IMPLEMENTING THE UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES*****Friday, 7th November 2014****Conference Centre, Dublin Castle
Dame St, Dublin 2****PROGRAMME**

- 8.30** **Registration**
Coffee/Tea
- 9.15** **Opening Address** - **Mr. Charles Flanagan T.D.**, Minister for
Foreign Affairs and Trade
- 9.30** **Setting the Scene** - **Ms. Mara Bustelo**, Sustainable Human
Development, Office of the High Commissioner
for Human Rights (OHCHR)

9.45 **Plenary Panel 1*****‘Socially sustainable globalization’ – making the business case for respect for human rights***

How can the business case for respect for human rights be better articulated and put into practice? How realistic is it to speak of creating a true ‘market incentive’ for respect for human rights? How successful has business been in embedding human rights policy into operational policies and procedures in a way that truly enhances the promotion and protection of human rights?

Moderator: **Ms. Emily Logan**, Chief Commissioner, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Speakers: **Mr. Chris Marsden OBE**, Institute for Human Rights & Business

Mr. William Echikson, Head of Communications and Public Affairs for Free Expression, Europe, Middle East & Africa, Google

Ms. Tina Roche, CEO, Business in the Community Ireland

Ms. Helen Dixon, Data Protection Commissioner

Ms. Jo Daniels, Sustainable Communities Manager, Marks & Spencer

Dr. Jack Golden, Organization Development Director, CRH plc

Questions and Answers

11.30 **Coffee/Tea**

11.45 **Plenary Panel 2**

***The UN Framework – Protect, Respect and Remedy:
Progress and Challenges Three Years On***

What are the principal lessons learned three years into the mandate of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights? What examples of effective implementation of the UN Guiding Principles by states and by businesses can be highlighted? What are the specific challenges in the period ahead? How can further progress be made towards providing access to effective remedies, both judicial and non-judicial? Is there a case for a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises?

Moderator: **Mr. Niall Burgess**, Secretary General,
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Speakers: **Professor Robert McCorquodale**, Director, British Institute
for International & Comparative Law, London

Dr. Shane Darcy, Irish Centre for Human Rights, National
University of Ireland, Galway

Professor Anita Ramasastry, University of Washington
School of Law

Mr. Dwight Justice, Economic & Social Policy, International
Trade Union Confederation

Ms. Audrey Gaughran, Director, Global Thematic Issues,
Amnesty International

Ms. Lene Wendland, Business & Human Rights advisor,
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Questions and Answers

13.15 **Lunch Break** (lunch served in Dining Hall)

14.15 Afternoon Parallel Panels (running simultaneously)

Parallel Panel 1

In La Touche room

Preparation of National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights - comparative analysis

How can the process of preparing national plans at national level assist in the development of the UN Framework on Business and Human Rights? What has best practice been in this regard? How do various stakeholders see their roles and how do we ensure their engagement? How can the diversity of businesses be encompassed in a single national plan? How can the language of human rights be meaningfully translated into the business environment? How can national plans contribute to regional and sectoral efforts for the implementation of the UNGPs? What does the future hold?

Moderator: Mr. Mark Kelly, Director, Irish Council for Civil Liberties

Speakers: Mr. Stephen Lowe, Head of Business & Freedom of Expression Team, Human Rights and Democracy Development, UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Ms. Mary Rose Burke, Director of Policy & Corporate Affairs, IBEC

Dr. Sheila Killian, Assistant Dean, Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick

Dr. Claire Methven O'Brien, Special Advisor, Human Rights & Development, Danish Institute for Human Rights

Mr. David Joyce, Irish Congress of Trade Unions

Rapporteur: Ms. Karol Balfe, Governance, Peace-building & Human Rights advisor, Christian Aid Ireland

Questions and Answers

Parallel Panel 2

In Main Conference Hall

Business and Human Rights – sectoral and developing country experiences

What are the challenges in approach in specific sectors such as the financial sector and extractive industries? What is the experience of business and human rights in developing countries? How can the challenges of implementing a trade strategy and a development programme be met while upholding human rights standards? How can the UNGPs help? What are examples of international best practice, including for ensuring issues around gender equality and vulnerable groups are adequately addressed? What role do human rights defenders play and how can they be supported?

Moderator: **Ms. Noeline Blackwell**, Director General, Free Legal Advice Centre (FLAC)

Speakers: **Mr. Clément Voulé**, Programme Manager (States in Transition) & African Commission Advocacy Coordinator, International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)

Ms. Lorna Gold, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Trócaire

Mr. Des Hogan, Director of Legal Affairs, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Mr. Mark Redmond, Chief Executive, American Chamber of Commerce Ireland

Ms. Ngo Thi Minh, Director, Center for Development and Integration, Hanoi, Vietnam

Rapporteur: **Ms. Deirdre Malone**, Executive Director, Irish Penal Reform Trust

Questions and Answers

16.00 **Reports from Parallel Panel Rapporteurs**

16.45 **Concluding Remarks – Mr. Colin Wrafter**,
Director, Human Rights Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade